

HOUSE RESOLUTION 270

By Hood

A RESOLUTION to commend Robert James of Murfreesboro on his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate for this body to recognize and commend those individuals who selflessly give of themselves to benefit those charitable organizations within their communities and the people of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, such individuals are former National Football League gridiron greats, Coach Ken Shipp, Jim "Pork Chop" Mitchell, Dennis Harrison, and Robert James, who will be honored at a sports banquet, "Where Are They Now", Former Professional Athletes of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, on March 6, 2004 with all proceeds going to four charities selected by the honorees: Wee Care Day Care Center, Rutherford County Adult Activity Center, Habitat for Humanity, and Bright Temple Church of God in Christ; and

WHEREAS, a three time All Pro selection at defensive back, Robert James is a graduate of Holloway High School and legendary Fisk University in Nashville. He holds a Master of Arts degree from Middle Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, a defensive lineman and linebacker in college, Mr. James was not selected in the 1969 draft, but withstood the challenge and won a spot at cornerback with the Buffalo Bills as a free agent. After becoming a starter in his second year, he led the team in interceptions and quickly developed a reputation throughout the NFL as a top defender; and

WHEREAS, during his eight year career in the National Football League, Robert James earned three consecutive trips to the Pro Bowl as a defensive back in 1972, 1973, and 1974 and in 1998 became the first defensive back to have his name placed on the Buffalo Bills' Wall of Fame in Ralph Wilson Stadium; and

WHEREAS, an exemplary role model on the field of play, Mr. James continues to be a role model for our children to emulate as he serves as Assistant Principal of Riverdale High School in Murfreesboro, providing guidance and support to every student under his supervision; and

WHEREAS, Robert James enjoys the loving companionship and support of his wife, Barbara, and their two children, Andrea and Robert, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Robert James has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues and fellow citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and commend Robert James of Murfreesboro on his exemplary career in the National Football League and his outstanding service to his community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.